

AN ADDRESS

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF NORTH CAROLINA,

TO

THE PUBLIC.

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RALLIGH:

PRINTED BY THOMAS J. LEXAM.

1836.



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I HAVE NOW DISPOSED OF ALL MY PROPERTY TO MY FAMILY. THERE IS ONE THING MORE I WISH I COULD GIVE THEM, AND THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. IF THEY HAVE THAT, AND I HAD NOT GIVEN THEM ONE SHILLING, THEY WOULD BE RICH; AND IF THEY HAVE NOT THAT, AND I HAD GIVEN THEM ALL THIS WORLD, THEY WOULD BE POOR.

[*The last Will of Patrick Henry.*

## AN ADDRESS.

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'The TRUSTEES of the EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF NORTH CAROLINA, respectfully solicit the attention of the friends of Christian Education to the following statement of *the principles upon which the School is established; the difficulties it has had to contend with; and the grounds upon which it now lays claim to the confidence and patronage of Episcopalian and the public generally.*

The principles which govern the Institution being essentially the same that were set forth in the "Prospectus," published in the early part of January, 1834, we beg leave to refer to that document for a specification of details, which our present limits will not permit us to give. We then said, by way of summary, what we now repeat, "That instruction in classical and other learning—the inculcation of the principles and duties of the christian religion—a parental supervision of the moral habits and manners of the pupils—the preservation of their health—and a systematic discipline of the mind and heart, are the purposes which the Episcopal School will, under the blessing of God, endeavor to effect, for all those who may be entrusted to its care." Hence, it will be perceived, that our object has been to provide a CHRISTIAN SEMINARY, where youth may be trained, by a thorough education, conducted purely upon *christian principles*, under a strict but paternal government; for the duties and trials of the life that *now is*, and for the blessedness of *that which is to come*.

It is not our present purpose to dwell upon the importance of such schools, or the obligations resting upon christian men to support them. These points ought not to re-

quire argument or elucidation, in a country where every public and private blessing depends, for its continuance, upon the sanctifying and conservative influence of gospel principles. Our duty now calls us to other considerations.

As the appointed guardians of the Episcopal School, we are not disposed to conceal, that it has hitherto, in some degree, failed to meet the high expectations of the public; and we feel ourselves called upon to state the causes of this, and how far they may be looked upon as removed.

The *first* disadvantage, under which we labored, was the want of suitable buildings. This was foreseen and lamented, but without the means of remedy. We were required, by the Convention establishing the School, "to open it *forthwith*;" and the demand for it was really too great to admit of delay. We, therefore, pitched our tent in an unbroken forest; and after the hurried erection of a single building—having rented one in the neighborhood—we were induced to commence the first session, in the hope of being able to make the increase of accommodations keep pace with the increase of pupils. In this, however, we soon found ourselves mistaken. Boys flock-ed in much faster than had been anticipated; and, conse-quently, our numbers became at once too great either for the comfort of the pupils, or the advantageous application of the principles of our system; particularly as the build-ings were at such a distance from each other, as wholly to disconnect the different departments of the establish-ment: *thus* greatly multiplying the difficulties of constant supervision, and weakening and perplexing the hands of discipline.

We are happy, however, in being able to inform the public, that this evil no longer exists; that our buildings are so nearly completed, as to admit of the comfortable

arrangement and settlement of the school on the plan of a *christian family* first contemplated.

Besides this evil, consequent upon the want of room, it should be recollected, that at the opening of our School, we were wholly without experience, and almost without precedent, in the application of our cardinal principles. It is true, that two or three schools at the North, established upon the same basis, were in successful progress. But it immediately became apparent, that, owing to peculiarities of habit and situation, a course of discipline suited to Northern boys, was, in many respects, inapplicable to boys at the South; and hence, that in this absence of proper information, we had no alternative but to *feel our way*—to ascertain, by experiment, the best modes of applying a system, the main features of which are derived from the revelation of God, and fixed by the dictates of his unchangeable will. This necessity, it will be, at once, perceived, must have subjected us to much inconvenience, and to occasional mistakes. And had not our work been purely a benevolent one, we might, perhaps, have shrunk from these difficulties of its prosecution. But, with the conviction that radical and destructive errors had crept into our systems of public education, that were not to be corrected without much labour and self-sacrifice, we resolved, by the help of God, to persevere, *through evil and through good report*; not doubting, for a moment, that the knowledge we thus acquired would enable us, at no very distant period, to remedy the evils consequent upon inexperience, and to place the institution on that high ground which, from its principles and purposes, it so well deserved to occupy. That period, we confidently believe, has arrived; and we now ask of the friends of the church and of christian education that favorable consideration and patronage, to which, we think, our exertions are entitled.

But we feel that we should be unjust to ourselves, and to those who have had the immediate direction of the School, did we omit the notice of a *third* evil, which, more than any other, has operated to our disadvantage. We refer to that growing out of the *misprediction of our friends*—not attaching any importance to the misrepresentations of our enemies.

In the first place, more was expected from the School than was either promised, or could have reasonably been looked for. We had encouraged the hope of being able, under the blessing of God, to inculcate good principles, promote virtuous habits, restrain exorbitant expenditures, and guard against those corrupting influences to which, in our schools, youth were too often exposed. But parents expected of us *much more*—expected that we should tame the *unmanageable* and reform the *vicious*; and they acted upon this expectation. No sooner was our School opened, than numbers of boys, whose indulgence had been unrestrained at home, or whose vices and turbulent disposition had placed them beyond the discipline of other schools, were confidently handed over to us. The consequence was, that our teachers, in entering on their labors, instead of finding themselves, as they had hoped, in a *christian family*, perceived, that, by this misjudgment of parents, they were made the unwilling managers of a “*house of correction*”—perceived that, with very partial accommodations, and no experience in the application of our peculiar discipline—a discipline which addresses itself chiefly to the virtuous and honorable feelings of uncorrupted youth—they were surrounded by a large number of pupils, many of whom had come to the School with bad habits, and bad dispositions—dispositions utterly averse to whatever restraining influence might be brought to bear upon them.

The committee felt, with the Reector, that the only rea-

sonable and proper course dictated by this difficult and unlooked for state of things, was, to protect the virtuous and well-disposed, by cutting off, as provocation should arise, the vicious and refractory; and by making such regulations as would secure in future, the entrance of boys at an earlier age.\* Thus, at the outset, were we *forced* into a course of discipline, as little pleasing to ourselves, as to those upon whom we were compelled to exert it. But, under the conviction, that in such a course only, we could deserve the confidence of parents, and the approbation of those who had committed to us the guardianship of the school, we hesitated not to go forward;—not in the vain hope, however, of escaping censure, or of silencing opposition. For we well knew, that pupils, in other respects orderly, would, in some cases, be likely so to sympathize with the unworthy, as necessarily to become involved in their fate. We well knew that parents, who had sent their sons to us to be cured of their vices, would experience sore disappointment and chagrin, upon their excision from the school. We well knew the disposition of delinquents, smarting under salutary discipline, to utter extravagances, and to give wings to the outcry of severity and cruelty. We well knew, that there is a bias in the parental breast, inclining to an undue confidence in such complaints; and we were not ignorant that the school had enemies, who would not be wanting in eagerness to seize upon, and in skill to magnify, any circumstance capable of a colouring prejudicial to our interests. A prospect of these evils, however, did not deter us; as it did not shake our confidence in the ultimate triumph of a system, based upon the

\* By a resolution of the Board, no boy can now be *entered*, who is older than 14 years. In addition, the Trustees would respectfully urge upon parents the importance of entering their sons even much earlier. At 8 years, they may, in most cases, be profitably received.

truth of God, and offering so many peculiar advantages to those who had a desire, that their children should be His obedient and prospered subjects. Churchmen, at least, we were willing to believe, as they had united in establishing the Institution to supply their own wants, would be found united and assiduous in its support.

The Episcopal School has been in operation a little more than two years. It has, during that period, experienced all the evils anticipated, and many of the encouragements. But the Trustees have the happiness to believe, that it is now more worthy of the confidence and patronage, of the friends of the church, and of the public, than it has been at any former time. The buildings are commodious; experience has been gained; the *old leaven* of disorder is nearly *purged out*; our principles are better understood; and the school has now at its head, a Rector, remarkable for his mildness, firmness and long-tried devotion to the interests of education; while arrangements are in progress to sustain him by a competent number of teachers, who, by gravity and experience, and permanent connexion with the school, may secure the respect of the pupils, and exert upon them a restraining and salutary influence.

But, notwithstanding these our best exertions to meet the public wants and expectations, we are not so ignorant of human nature, or the state of family education in our country, as to suppose, that we are hereafter to proceed, without encountering prejudice or complaint. Against these, it is not in the power of man fully to provide. We can only do our duty and leave the results to God. Still we are unwilling to close this address, without briefly urging upon parents one or two considerations more, calculated to aid them in their judgments of the character and administration of the school.

It was founded by the Protestant Episcopal Church of this State, for the purpose of supplying to parents a truly

*Christian School* for their sons, where, according to the doctriaes, discipline and worship of the Church, they may receive, together with classical and other learning, a thorough training in the principles and duties of the Christian life. It should be recollect, therefore, that *every member of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State, stands pledged for this high character of the Institution.* And, especially, that the Board of Trustees, in fulfilling the duties assigned them, act as mere agents of the Churh, and cannot be supposed to be governed by any other motives than those of duly carrying out her benevolent designs. In this it would seem that the public are furnished with a sufficient guarantee, that no remediable fault in the School will be suffered long to remain; and that every endeavor which ought to be expeeted of Christian men, will be made to render the Institution *exactly what it professes to be*:—a means, not of pecuniary profit to any one, but of advancing true religion, and diffusing useful knowledge, on the only sound principle—that “**HE THAT WALKETH UPRIGHTLY, WALKETH SURELY.**”

In conclusion, we entreat parents to bear in mind, that *strict discipline* is one of the prominent and essential features in a Christian family; and that in every case, where the proper subordination of the child cannot be secured by motives addressed to the mind and heart, it becomes the imperious duty of the parent to resort to punishment—more or less severe according to the dispositions of the offender. We are aware that this view of *parental discipline*, symbolizes but badly with those notions which attach to it no other idea than *indulgence*. But we are unwilling to believe, that so little regard to the welfare of their children is felt, by the parents of our country, as such notions would indicate; while we assure them, that no act of discipline in the *E*piscopal School will be resorted to, which,

in the experienced judgment of the amiable and conscientious Rector, is not clearly essential *to the best good of the pupils*, and to the true, the legitimate ends of **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.**

**LEVI SILLIMON IVES, Ch<sup>r</sup>n.  
SIMMONS J. BAKER,  
JARVIS B. BUXTON,  
DUNCAN CAMERON,  
T. P. DEVEREUX;  
GEORGE W. FREEMAN,  
WILLIAM M. GREEN,  
WILLIAM H. HAYWOOD, Jr.,  
FREDERIC J. HILL,  
RICHARD HINES,  
GEORGE E. SPRUILL,  
EDWARD L. WINSLOW,**

*Trustees.*



### **ADVERTISEMENT.**

The attention of parents is respectfully called to the following particulars:

*Expenses:* The annual charge for board and tuition to be paid in advance, semi-annually, \$200 00

Mattrass and bedding, if purchased at the school, 16 50

Towels and basin, if purchased at the school, about, 2 00

Each pupil is required to have a Bible and Prayer Book.

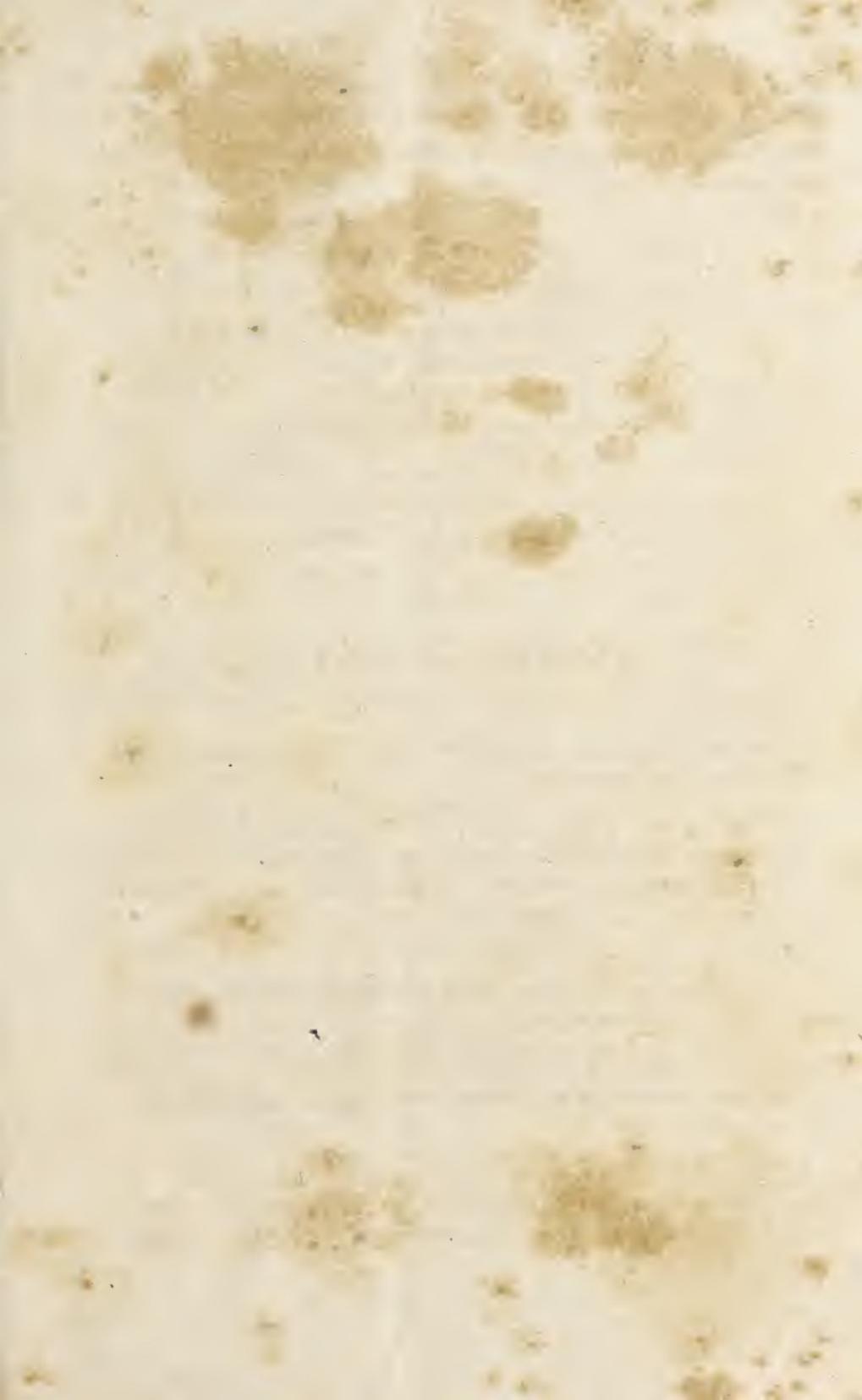
No other expenses incurred, except for clothing, books and pocket money. It is desired that parents would send their sons fully provided with clothing; or communicate to the Rector special directions for its purchase.

All funds are to be deposited on the entrance of the pupil, in the hands of the Rector, to be drawn out only at his discretion.

No pupil is allowed, on pain of dismissal, to have an account of any description, at any store or shop in town.

The next Session of the School will begin on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1837.

Persons who may be desirous of sending their children to the School, would confer a favor by giving early notice of their intention to the Rev. Adam Empie, D. D., Rector of the School, or to E. B. Freeman, Esq., Treasurer and Secretary, Raleigh.



5



